

The Midwife.

A PRACTICAL METHOD OF CATHETERIZATION.

Those who have taught pupil nurses to catheterize, and who have watched their work closely, will, I believe (says a writer in *The Modern Hospital*), agree that the points in the procedure most difficult for the average pupil nurse to grasp are, *i.e.*: (1) how to keep their hands from conveying infectious materials into the meatus; (2) to be able to find easily the meatus urinarius, especially in puerperal patients, where the labiæ are swollen. To remedy this I have adapted the technic outlined in the succeeding paragraphs:—

Equipment.—One sterile tray containing:—

1. One sterile pan, containing two perfect glass catheters, each having five inches of rubber tubing attached to its distal end.
2. One sterile pitcher containing one quart of sterile antiseptic solution of proper strength for flushing.
3. One sterile wide-mouth glass bottle, capacity at least one quart, of special design for this purpose only.
4. One package of three sterile towels.
5. One pair of good sterile gloves.

Additional supplies: Douche pan, draping sheet, and screen for bedside.

Procedure—

1. The pupil takes tray and other supplies to bedside and places screen around bed.
2. She washes her hands carefully, and dries them on clean towel.
3. Puts patient on douche pan, drapes with clean sheet, folding bed covers to foot of bed.
4. Places the tray at patient's feet.
5. Opens sterile packages—puts on sterile gloves.
6. Places one sterile towel over pubic region and one over thigh next pupil.
7. Picks up handle of pitcher with extra sterile towel with right hand. With thumb and forefinger of left hand separates labiæ at the uppermost point, and holds them well separated.
8. The solution is poured from pitcher in right hand with some force, so that the flow strikes against the meatus, thereby opening it, and at the same time washing infectious material downward from it, thus cleansing the orifice.
9. Still holding the labiæ apart—not letting them fall together for one instant—the pupil sets the pitcher on the tray, picks up the catheter at the rubber end, and kinks the rubber as she inserts the catheter into the meatus.
10. Then releasing the thumb and forefinger of left hand, with them she holds rubber end of catheter closed until, with right hand, she places the bottle in douche pan, directing rubber end into it, allowing the urine to flow directly into a sterile container, thus providing a sterile specimen if same is wanted for examination.

The rest of the technic is the same as is usually taught; pressure over the supra-pubic region, and reaching recesses of the bladder by gentle turning of the catheter to facilitate the flow of urine.

The catheter must always be inspected before insertion for cracks or imperfections, and for that reason or in case of accident I instruct pupils to sterilise two catheters for each catheterization.

After the urine ceases to flow, the pupil flushes the labiæ, removes patient from the douche pan, dries the buttocks, and makes the bed toilet.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A Special Penal Meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at the offices of the Board, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W., on April 16th, with the following results:—

Struck Off the Roll and Certificate Cancelled.—Midwives Lucy Smith (No. 30851), Maria Alcock (No. 18358), Lettie Bailey (No. 30800), Mary Ball (No. 14456), Ann Bolstridge (No. 17763), Rose Cousins (No. 42384), and Edith Knott (No. 29214).

Report in Three and Six Months' Time.—Midwives Mary Elizabeth McGrath (No. 937), and Ethel Margaret Williams (No. 29860).

THE TREASURE COT.

The selection of a cot for baby (and especially the first baby) is an important event in the life of an expectant mother; it is also of great importance to the infant that the right type of cot should be selected. We do not think the mother will be long in doubt if she visits the establishment of the Treasure Cot Co., Ltd., 124, Victoria Street, W. 1 (near Victoria Station) where she will be a welcome visitor. The cot has many obvious advantages besides being dainty and attractive.

We drew attention in a recent issue to the interest shown by the Queen in these cots when visiting the Rachel McMillan Baby Camp at Deptford. "I can see they are admirable," said Her Majesty. "They are clean, light, and not too dear."

THE MENE ACCOUCHEMENT SETS.

Midwives and Nurses should note the convenience of the Mene Specialities supplied by Messrs. Robinson & Sons, Ltd., Chesterfield, and 168, Old Street, London, E.C., and procurable from drapers, ladies' outfitters and chemists. It is, for instance, a great convenience for a maternity nurse to be able to procure, or to tell her patient where to procure, a well-selected set of necessaries for her accouchement, and the Mene Accouchement Sets are procurable at the very moderate prices of 40s. and 20s. each.

Their Accouchement Sheets of various sizes, absorbent and at the same time waterproof, are also very convenient.

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